



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

March 15, 2006

IN REPLY REFER TO

**HDA-CA**

Document # 48779

Mr. Will Kempton, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Rachel Falsetti, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: FY 2004 FTIP Amendment No. 17 – Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed the review of Amendment No. 17 to the BCAG 2004 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated February 23, 2006. BCAG adopted Amendment No. 17 with Resolution No. 2005/06-05 on January 26, 2006. With that action, the BCAG Board of Directors approved the program modifications and reaffirmed the conformity of the BCAG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

The BCAG FTIP Amendment No. 17 programmed new State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for existing projects while moving up the schedule for the SHOPP project by one year from 06/07 to 05/06. The schedule for the CMAQ project does not change. In addition, new Federal earmarks from SAFETEA-LU are being programmed for both an existing Forest Highway project and the preparation of planning and technical studies for a potential new interchange on State Route 70.

Pursuant to the July 15, 2004, *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX*, we accept the modifications to the 2005-2007 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the BCAG region in accordance with the Federal statewide and metropolitan transportation planning regulations codified in 23 CFR Part 450. We find that BCAG's 2004 FTIP, through Amendment No. 17, was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. §134, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. This approval is provided with the understanding that the FTA funding approval on the individual



projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements.

We have determined that program modifications in Amendment No. 17 are exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93 sections 126 and 127. This finding has been coordinated with Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the FTIP continues to conform to the applicable SIP.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the BCAG's FTIP Amendment No. 17 into California's 2004/05 – 2006/07 FSTIP.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this BCAG FSTIP amendment, please contact Steve Luxenberg (steve.luxenberg@fhwa.dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5066 or Paul Page (paul.page@fta.dot.gov) with FTA Region 9 at (415) 744-2734.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Leslie Rogers**

Leslie Rogers  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

**/s/ K. Sue Kiser**

For  
Gene K. Fong  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)  
Jon Clark, BCAG  
Ivan Garcia, BCAG  
Randy Steen, Caltrans  
Ross A. Chittenden, Caltrans  
Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans  
Terry Abbott, Caltrans  
Rachel Falsetti, Caltrans  
Karina O'Connor, EPA  
Toby Tiktinsky, EPA  
Paul Page, FTA

cc: (other)  
BCAG 2004 FTIP Binder

Sluxenberg:lmg